

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19951 221902Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 /055 W
-----022262 230422Z /17

R 221906Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3719
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, XG
SUBJECT: EC DIRECTIVE ON STANDARDS OF FILL FOR BEER
CONTAINERS

REF: (A) STATE 153339 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 075963

1. WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOF MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE ALONG LINES SET FORTH IN REF (B). MULTI-
LATERAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PREVEL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE
U.S. BREWING INDUSTRY'S PROBLEM, GIVEN THE RELATIVELY
SMALL MARKET IN EUROPE FOR U.S. BEER. HOWEVER, HE NOTED
THAT THE EC EXCLUSION OF 10 AND 12 OUNCE BEER CANS,
SCHEDULED TO TAKE EFFECT AT THE END OF 1980, RESULTS
FROM A 1974 COUNCIL DECISION. HE WONDERED WHY THE U.S.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 19951 221902Z

INDUSTRY WAS SO LONG IN REACTING. WE STRESSED THAT OUR
NUMEROUS PAST APPROACHES ON THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN
MADE DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSION AND THAT WE WERE ONLY
NOW RAISING THE ISSUE BILATERALLY BECAUSE OF OUR LACK
OF SUCCESS IN BRUSSELS.

2. WE ASKED PREVEL IF GOF SUPPORT WOULD BE POSSIBLE

FOR OUR EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE COMMISSION TO SEEK
AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 75/106/EEC SO AS TO
PLACE U.S. CONTAINER SIZES IN THE "DEFINITELY ALLOWED"
CATEGORY AFTER 1980. HE SAID HE HAD NO RPT NO IDEA
WHETHER THE GOF WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER DOING
THIS. TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, HE CONTINUED, THE
COMMISSION HAD NEVER BROUGHT OUR BEER CONTAINER PROBLEM
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE VARIOUS EC CAPITALS. THIS, HE
CONCLUDED, WOULD BE A NECESSARY FIRST STEP.

3. COMMENT: PREVEL LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT
WE SHOULD EXPECT NO FRENCH INITIATIVES ON THIS PROBLEM,
AND THAT THE GOF WOULD CONSIDER IT ONLY IF ITS EC
PARTNERS FELT CONSTRAINED TO DO SO.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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